

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS ;
BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN NURSING ,

ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL 1969

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BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN NURSING

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INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The Board of Registration in Nursing is required by statute to "make an annual report of the condition of nursing in the Commonwealth." This document represents the Board's attempt to comply with Section 78, Chapter 112, General Laws of Massachusetts. The report covers the fiscal year period July 1, 1968 through June 30, 1969.

PURPOSE AND FUNCTIONS OF BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN NURSING

As an administrative agency within the governmental organization of the Commonwealth, the Board of Registration in Nursing has been delegated responsibility for the implementation of those statutes and sections of statutes that provide legal control of nursing practice. The fundamental purpose of the Board, therefore, is to safeguard the welfare of the citizens of the Commonwealth whenever such citizens are in situations that require the services of professional and practical nurses.

In fulfilling its purpose, the Board has two major functions: (1) licensure of registered nurses and practical nurses and (2) determination and maintenance of educational standards in nursing that are basic to licensure through approval of nursing education programs.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD

Qualifications for membership on the Board of Registration in Nursing are established by Section 13, Chapter 13, General Laws of Massachusetts, as amended.

The twelve member Board consists of five registered professional nurses, one licensed practical nurse, two hospital administrators, two qualified physicians, and two hospital trustees. Members are appointed by the Governor for six-year terms.

Membership during the major portion of the period covered by the report is outlined in Table 1.

<u>Name of Member</u>	<u>Representation</u>
Harold A. Callahan	Hospital Administration
Hazelle Ferguson, R.N.	Public Health Nursing
Eleanor A. Gaffney, R.N.	Practical Nursing Education
Shirley Garant, R.N.	Diploma Nursing Education
Catherine T. Garrity, L.P.N.	Practical Nursing
Clinton N. Koufman, M.D.	Medical Profession
Mary A. Maher, R.N.	Collegiate Nursing Education
Nathan E. Silbert, M.D.	Medical Profession
R. Ashton Smith	Hospital Administration
Irene Theberge, R.N.	Nursing Service Administration

TABLE 1: Membership Board of Registration in Nursing

The chairman is elected by Board members at the annual meeting. Eleanor A. Gaffney, R.N. served as chairman during the period covered by the report. Two vacancies in Board membership existed during this period. Both required the qualification "trustees of different hospitals each maintaining such a duly approved school (for nurses)."

MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

There were nine regular meetings and three special meetings of the Board of Registration in Nursing during the fiscal year 1968-69. A quorum was established at each regular meeting except those held on March 5 and June 18, 1969 and at each special meeting.

Minutes of each meeting are on file at the Board of Registration in Nursing office.

LICENSURE

REGISTRATION OF PROFESSIONAL NURSES

Eight examination sessions consisting of two days each were conducted during the 1968-69 period. The source of examinees was as follows: 2,583 were graduates of schools of nursing located in Massachusetts with 188 from other states, and 288 from other countries. 2,287 of the candidates wrote the examination for the first time; 772 were repeating the examination during this period.

3837 original certificates of registration were issued, 2282 through examination and 1555 through endorsement by another board of nursing.

In addition, 68,551 renewal registrations were issued. Thus, a total of 72,388 professional nurses were registered in Massachusetts during fiscal 1969.

Table 2 provides a comparison of the number of registered nurse certificates issued annually for a five-year period.

Fiscal Year	Original Registrations		Renewal Registrations	Total Registrations
	Examination	Endorsement		
1965	1901	874	59,862	62,637
1966	1463	895	60,592	62,950
1967	1903	1423	65,961	69,287
1968	2169	1433	66,481	70,083
1969	2282	1555	68,551	72,388

TABLE 2. Comparison of Number of Professional Nurse Registration Certificates Issued Annually for Five Consecutive Years 1965-69

Original registrations showed an annual increase of 235. During the five year period 1965-1969, they increased by 1,062. The increase in annual renewal registrations during the five-year period is 8,689. This increase is due, in large measure, to reactivated registrations which may be an indication of the number of persons who have returned to the practice of nursing after being inactive over a period of time.

LICENSING OF PRACTICAL NURSES

Four examination sessions of one day each were conducted during fiscal 1969 for the purpose of licensing practical nurses with 1279 candidates being examined.

Of the total number of candidates examined, 1043 were graduates of approved schools of practical nursing located in Massachusetts, 24 graduated from schools located in other states, 12 from schools located in other countries. 54 candidates applied under the equivalency clause. 146 candidates graduated from the Commonwealth Center for Practical Nurse Education, the accelerated program for practical nurses licensed through waiver statute provisions.

A total of 1294 original certificates of licensure were issued to practical nurses, 1124 through examination and 170 through endorsement. 19,564 renewal licenses were issued so that a total of 20,858 practical nurse licenses were issued during fiscal 1969.

A comparison of the number of practical nurses licensed each year for five consecutive years is presented in Table 3.

Fiscal Year	Original Licenses		Renewal Licenses	Total Licenses
	Examination	Endorsement		
1965	847	96	16,842	17,785
1966	597	124	16,721	17,442
1967	1113	148	18,739	20,000
1968	1245	173	18,807	20,225
1969	1124	170	19,564	20,858

TABLE 3. Comparison of Number of Practical Nurse Licenses Issued Annually for Five Consecutive Years, 1965-69.

Table 3 demonstrates that there was a slight decrease in the number of original licenses issued to practical nurses during this period. Further study of statistical data available at the Board of Registration in Nursing office demonstrates that the number of candidates examined who were graduates of Massachusetts schools was less than the number from this source examined during fiscal 1968. In contrast, the number of persons who graduated from Massachusetts schools increased during this period. Two alternative conclusions are possible: (1) a number of graduates did not seek licensure following graduation or (2) they sought original licensure in a state other than Massachusetts.

CERTIFICATION OF PROFESSIONAL NURSES

Certification of authorization to practice professional nursing under the supervision of a registered nurse may be provided to the nurse registered in another jurisdiction pending completion of the requirements for registration. The certificate issued is valid for one year. There is provision for renewal for one additional year. The certification provisions of the nursing practice statute (section 76A, chapter 112) are applicable, primarily, to nurses from other countries.

103 certificates were issued during the period of this report along with 25 renewal certificates.

Since the certification legislation in 1966, a total of 610 applications for certification of authorization to practice professional nursing have been filed; 384 certificates have been issued with 54 of these having been renewed. 49 of the applications have been withdrawn because the applicants did not file necessary credentials within a one-year period and 177 are pending but are not yet complete. Thus since the certification statute was enacted in 1966, 62.9% of the applicants have complied with the procedural requirements and have been certified.

CERTIFIED STATEMENTS ISSUED TO OTHER BOARDS OF NURSING

Licensure through endorsement requires that the Board of Nursing in the state of original licensure provide a certified statement verifying that license to the Board of Nursing in the state in which the individual is making application for registration as a professional nurse or license as a practical nurse without examination.

During fiscal 1969, the Board of Registration in Nursing issued a total of 2480 certified statements to other Boards of Nursing, 1959 for registered nurses and 521 for licensed practical nurses. The total number of certified statements issued for both categories of licensees showed little variation over the preceding year.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION AND REINSTATEMENTS

In accordance with section 77, chapter 112, the Board of Registration in Nursing investigates complaints of violations of the nursing practice law. The number of complaints being received at the Board office is increasing. Procurement of proper evidence to support a complaint is frequently difficult.

During fiscal 1969, the Board referred eight cases to the Department of Public Safety for further investigation. These cases involved persons who were representing themselves to be either registered nurses or licensed practical nurses without benefit of Massachusetts license. Three cases resulted in court action; the disposition of five did not require court action.

Seven complaints of nursing practice (four registered nurses and three licensed practical nurses) resulted in denial of renewal to two registered nurses and one licensed practical nurse and disposition without action on the licenses of the others because the evidence offered in support of each complaint was inadequate.

During this period, five registered nurses and one licensed practical nurse, whose licenses were previously suspended/revoked, were reinstated.

BASIC NURSING EDUCATION IN MASSACHUSETTS

TYPES AND NUMBERS OF NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The Board of Registration in Nursing is the legal accrediting (approval) agency for educational programs preparing professional and practical nurses.

There are three distinctive types of programs whose graduates are eligible for admission to the examination for registration as professional nurses (R.N.) They are:

1. Schools of Nursing that grant the diploma, usually administered by a hospital corporation;
2. Junior or Community College Programs that grant an associate degree in nursing;
3. College or University Programs that grant a baccalaureate degree in nursing.

Practical Nursing Schools whose graduates are eligible for admission to the practical nurse licensing examination (L.P.N.) are categorized according to administrative control as hospital schools, vocational or trade school programs, and independent schools.

On June 30, 1969, there were 99 approved nursing education programs in Massachusetts distributed as follows:

<u>Professional Nursing</u>	
Diploma	42
Associate Degree	13
Baccalaureate Degree	7
Total Professional Nursing Schools	<u>62</u>
<u>Practical Nursing</u>	
Hospital	14
Vocational	19
Independent	4
Total Practical Nursing Schools	<u>37</u>

During the period covered by this report, the nursing education program conducted by St. Joseph's Hospital, Lowell was terminated as was the practical nursing program conducted by the Plymouth Vocational School. It is anticipated that the latter program will be replaced by a practical nursing education program at the Upper Cape Cod Regional Vocational-Technical School, Bourne which is scheduled to open in the Fall, 1969. Two additional diploma programs has initiated closure action and procedure.

Five associate degree nursing programs and one baccalaureate degree program opened in September, 1968. They are located at the following institutions:

Bristol Community College
Cape Cod Community College
Massasoit Community College
Northern Essex Community College
North Shore Community College
State College at Lowell

Of the 40 diploma programs in full operation, as of the Fall, 1968, 18 show enrollments of 100 or less students. Data submitted by the associate degree programs indicates that only 2 of the 13 programs will have an enrollment of 100 students during the coming academic year.

4 practical nursing education programs show enrollments of 100 or more students, while 21 of these programs have enrollments of less than 50 students.

Thus, 62 of the 99 (62.9%) of the approved nursing education programs, located in the commonwealth, have fewer than 100 students enrolled in each of them.

The perpetuation of a system that encourages a large number of small nursing education programs in the state affects the availability of qualified faculty personnel. The major problem facing nursing education, in Massachusetts, is the inadequacy of nurse faculty in number and preparation. Unless the problem is resolved in the near future, the effect on nursing practice will become increasingly evident with eventual jeopardy to the public welfare.

ENROLLMENT, SCHOOLS OF PROFESSIONAL NURSING

As of October 1, 1969, there were 7725 students enrolled in professional nursing education programs of which 3061 were admitted in the Fall, 1968.

Table 4 provides enrollment statistics for the three types of professional nursing programs for the academic year 1967-68.

<u>Type of Program</u>	<u>Total Enrollment</u>	<u>Admissions</u>	<u>Graduations</u>	<u>% of Enrollment</u>
Diploma	4946	1880	1669	64
Associate Degree	962	601	240	12.5
Baccalaureate Degree	1817	580	299	23.5
Totals	7725	3061	2208	100.0

TABLE 4. Enrollment Statistics, Schools of Professional Nursing, Academic Year, 1967-68

Total admissions to schools of professional nursing in 1968 showed 8.1% increase over the number of students admitted in 1967. 61.4% were admitted to diploma programs, 19.4% to associate degree programs and 19.0% to baccalaureate degree programs.

ENROLLMENT, SCHOOLS OF PRACTICAL NURSING

The annual reports of schools of practical nursing reported a total enrollment of 2195 students on October 1, 1968, with 1574 of these having been admitted in the Fall, 1968.

Practical Nursing school enrollment statistics for the academic year, 1967-68 are

Type of Program	Total Enrollment	Admissions	Graduations	% of Enrollment
Hospital	782	532	433	35.6
Vocational	1125	800	511	51.3
Independent	288	242	122	13.1
	<u>2195</u>	<u>1574</u>	<u>1066</u>	<u>100.0</u>

TABLE 5. Enrollment Statistics, Schools of Practical Nursing Academic Year, 1967-68

51.3% of the total practical nursing school enrollment is located in the vocational schools with 35.6% within hospital-controlled programs and 13.1% in the independent category of schools.

There are no dramatic changes in statistical data provided for practical nursing schools, although admissions as compared with 1967 increased by 187 in 1968.

COMMONWEALTH CENTER FOR PRACTICAL NURSE EDUCATION

An accelerated practical nursing program for practical nurses licensed through a waiver statute in Massachusetts was initiated in 1967. Known as the Commonwealth Center for Practical Nurse Education, the program is administered by the Division of Vocational Education and approved by the Board of Registration in Nursing.

Original planning for this program anticipated that 1,000 eligible recruits could be offered the program within a two-year period. It was expected that three separate sections would operate simultaneously in different regions of the state, following implementation of a pilot section in the Greater Boston area.

The plans have not been realized. To date, the course has been offered to only 264 candidates, 194 of whom have graduated. The lack of support for the program by employers of licensed practical nurses, other state agencies and voluntary organizations along with the unavailability of funds for the project has hampered the success of the project.

Of the 194 graduates, 191 had written the practical nurse licensing examination prior to July 1, 1969. 176 (92.1%) of these candidates passed the examination. 10 of the remaining candidates rewrote the examination; 9 passed on the second attempt. Thus, 95% of the graduates have become licensed as practical nurses as graduates of an approved school of practical nursing and, therefore, meet the Medicare Program requirement as qualified licensed practical nurses.

APPRAISAL OF NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAMS THROUGH SURVEY

By its own regulation, the Board of Registration in Nursing requires that each school of professional and practical nursing be surveyed at least every three years. Implementation of this regulation was previously hampered by the inadequacy of the staff. However, additional professional nurse staff has facilitated implementation of the regulation.

During this fiscal year, surveys were conducted in relation to the following nursing education programs, reports were prepared for presentation to Board members for action and subsequently circulated to appropriate officers associated with the respective program:

Brockton Hospital School of Nursing
Burbank Hospital School of Nursing
Lawrence Memorial Hospital School of Nursing
Malden Hospital School of Nursing
Melrose-Wakefield Hospital School of Nursing
New England Baptist Hospital School of Nursing
Quinsigamond Community College
Beverly Hospital School of Practical Nursing
City of Boston, Dept. of Health & Hospitals School of Practical Nursing
Gardner State Hospital School of Practical Nursing
Pondville Hospital School of Practical Nursing
David Hale Fanning Trade High School Practical Nurse Program
Haverhill Trade High School Practical Nurse Program
Holyoke Trade High School Practical Nurse Program
Quincy Vocational-Technical School Practical Nurse Program
Waltham Trade High School Practical Nurse Program

ACTION ON CURRICULUM REVISIONS

The Board members reviewed and approved a revised curriculum submitted by each of the following schools:

Beverly Hospital School of Nursing
Framingham Union Hospital School of Nursing
Lawrence General Hospital School of Nursing
Lynn Hospital School of Nursing
St. Anne's Hospital School of Nursing
Salem Hospital School of Nursing
Sturdy Memorial Hospital School of Nursing
Whidden Memorial Hospital School of Nursing
Lemuel Shattuck Hospital School of Practical Nursing

In addition, the practical nursing programs at Essex Agricultural and Technical Institute, Cape Cod Hospital, Quincy Vocational-Technical School and Lawrence Vocational Schools were granted approval to conduct 12 month programs as experimental projects for 3 years. The one year program at Henry O. Peabody School was granted full approval during this period.

LEGISLATION

Chapters 375 and 603, Acts of 1969 were signed into law during the 1969 legislative session as amendments to the nursing practice law. The former prevents appointment of a Board of Registration in Nursing member to two successive terms. The latter increases original licensing application fees from \$10.00 to \$25.00 and provides biennial renewal of licenses for a fee of \$4.00 as opposed to annual renewal at a \$1.00 fee. Chapter 375 was effective September 1, 1969; chapter 603 will become effective January 1, 1970.

FINANCES

BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN NURSING FEES

The Board of Registration in Nursing fees during this period were as follows:

Application for R.N.	\$10.00
Application for L.P.N.	10.00
Certified Statement to another Board	2.00
Certification to practice professional nursing	10.00
Evaluation of Foreign Nurse (for visa purposes)	5.00
Renewal R.N.	1.00
Renewal L.P.N.	1.00
Renewal Certification	1.00

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - FISCAL 1969

Income	\$157,294.82
Expenditures:	
Examination Proctors	2,672.00
Examination Materials	29,662.23
Printing and Xerox	282.67
Postage	11,396.22
Telephone	966.31
Rental fees (for Examinations)	7,451.25
Transportation of Supplies	53.78
General Office Supplies	2,896.09
Shipping	9.25
Office Staff Salaries	88,385.66
Board Members Compensation	3,624.00
Travel	1,450.00
Accounts Payable	9,483.63
Total Expenses	\$158,333.09
Difference Income/Expenses	1,038.27

Recognition of the fact that eventually Board of Registration in Nursing expenditures would exceed Board income has prompted the Board's repeated attempts to increase its fees through legislative action. Fortunately, this was attained during the 1969 session of the General Court. Thus, it is anticipated that during fiscal 1970 the Board of Registration in Nursing will again become a self-supporting agency.

Eleanor A. Gaffney, R.N.
Chairman

Winifred V. Shuman, R.N.
Executive Secretary